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Read at Home

The Secret of the Sands



Series created by Roderick Hunt and Alex Brychta



Tips for Reading Together

Children learn best when reading is fun.

- Talk about the title and the pictures on the cover.
- Discuss what you think the story might be about.
- Read the story together, inviting your child to read as much of it as they can.
- Give lots of praise as your child reads, and help them when necessary.
- Try different ways of helping if they get stuck on a word. For example, get them to say the first sound of the word, or break it into chunks, or read the whole sentence again, trying to guess the word. Focus on the meaning.
- Have fun finding the desert rat and the letters and letter shapes hidden in the pictures.
- Re-read the story later, encouraging your child to read as much of it as they can.

Children enjoy re-reading stories and this helps to build their confidence.

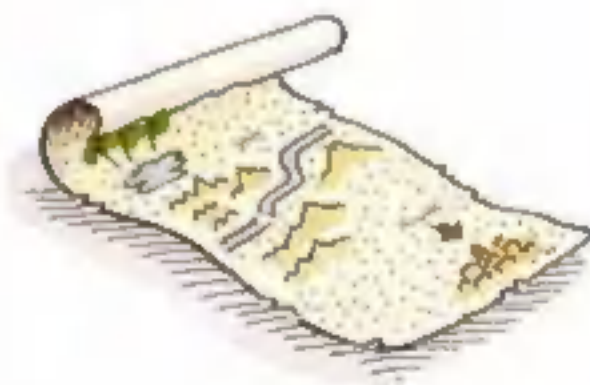
Have fun!

Find the letters and letter shapes hidden in the pictures that spell out the word TREASURE, and look for the desert rat.

The Secret of the Sands

Written by Cynthia Rider

Illustrated by Alex Brychta



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The children were playing on the computer. They were playing Chip's new game, Secret of the Sands.



Suddenly, the magic key began to glow. "Look at the key!" cried Biff. "It's time for an adventure."



Floppy growled. He didn't want an adventure, but the magic was starting to work.

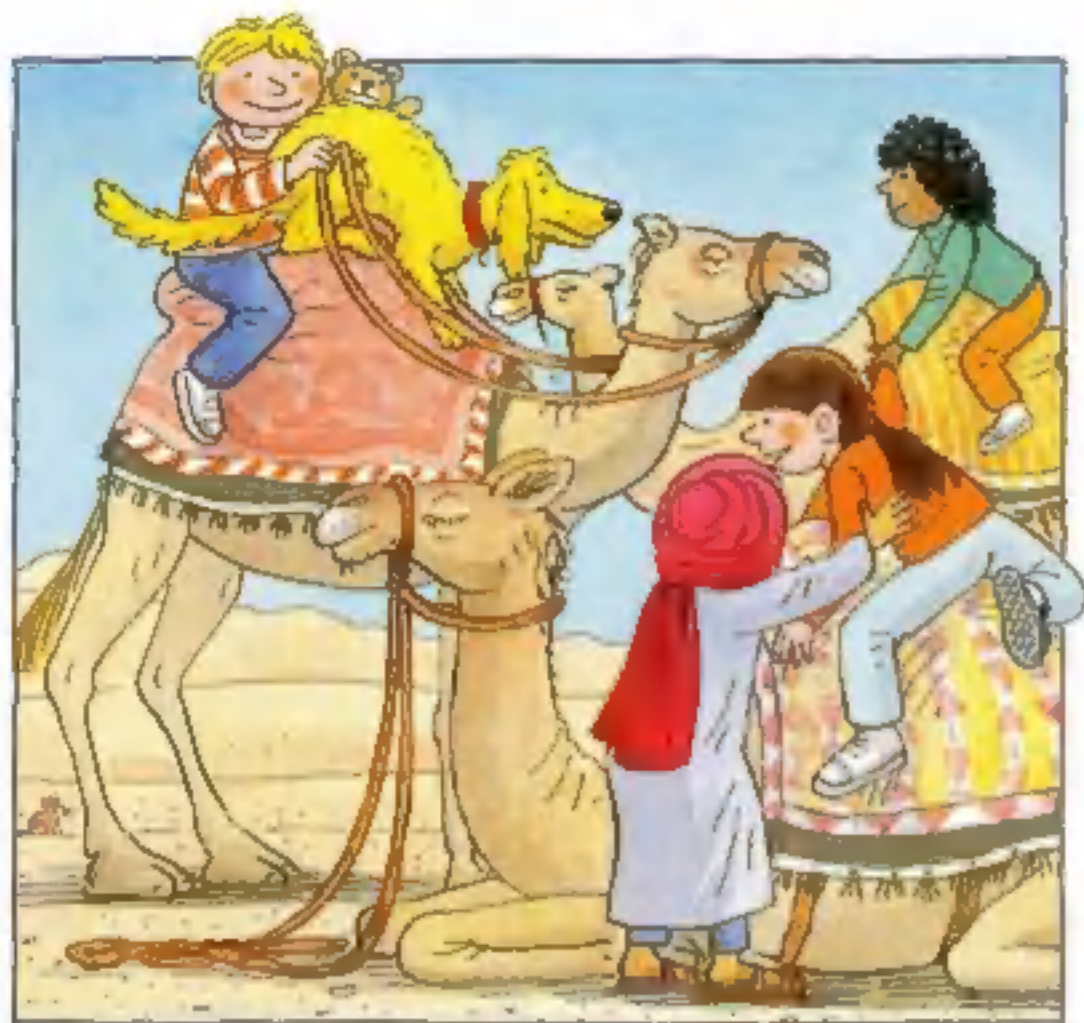


The magic took the children into a desert. They saw a boy riding a camel across the hot sands.



The boy rode up to them.

"My name is Ali," he said. "You must come to my tent. You can't stay out in this hot sun."



Ali helped the children climb onto the camels. Floppy sat with Kipper.

"This camel is too bumpy for me," thought Floppy.



Ali took the children to his tent. He gave them some cooler clothes. Then he showed them a map.



"I'm going to the village on this map," said Ali. "Nobody lives there now, but long ago my father hid some treasure there. He called it the Secret of the Sands."

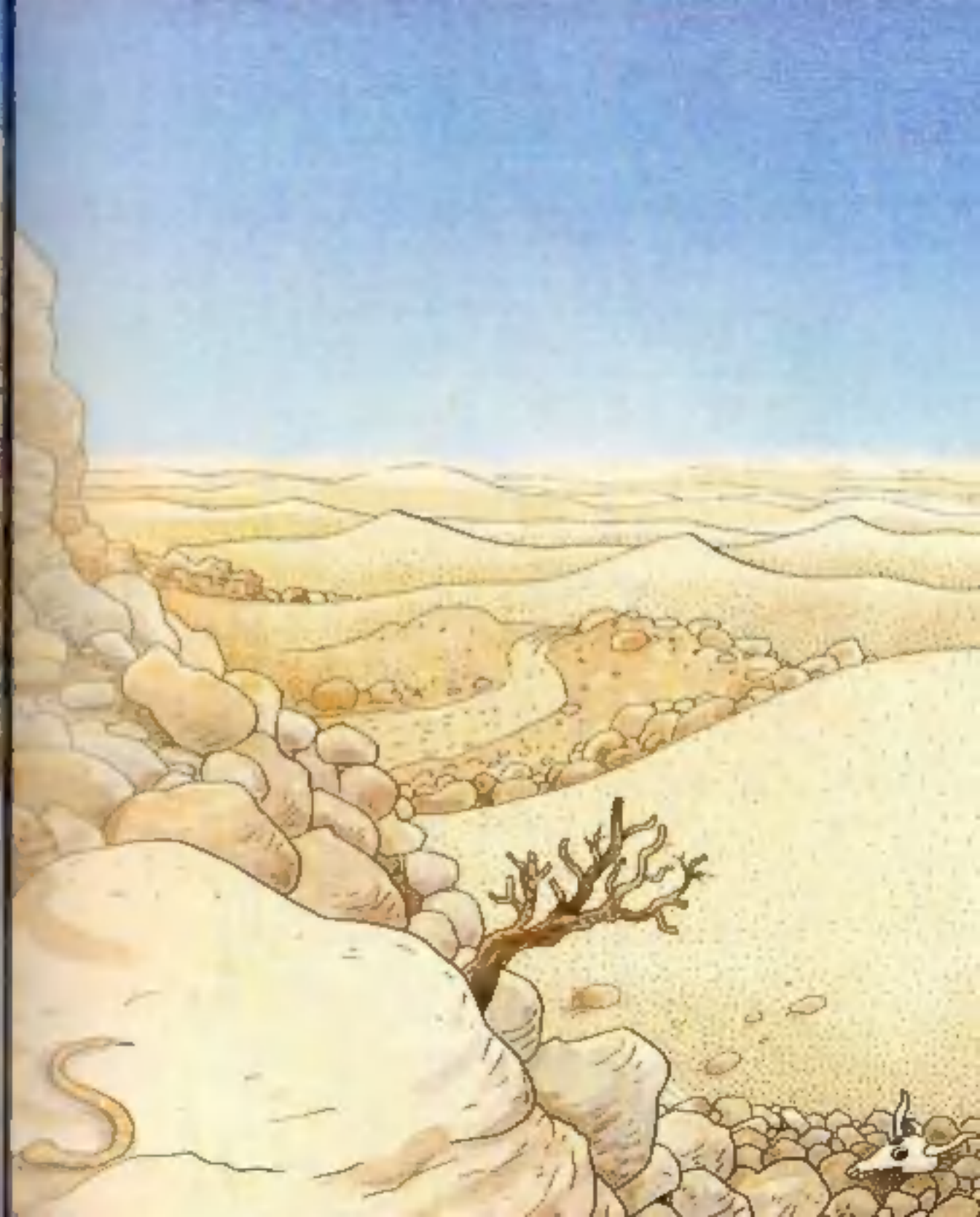


"Secret of the Sands! That's the same name as my game," cried Chip. "Can we help you to find the treasure?"



"Oh yes! I'd like you to help," said Ali. "Come on, let's go!"

They rode through deep, rocky valleys and up steep, sandy hills.





At last, they came to the village. There was sand everywhere. It had blown into the empty rooms and drifted over the walls.

"There must have been a sandstorm," said Ali. "It all looks different from the map. I don't know where to look."



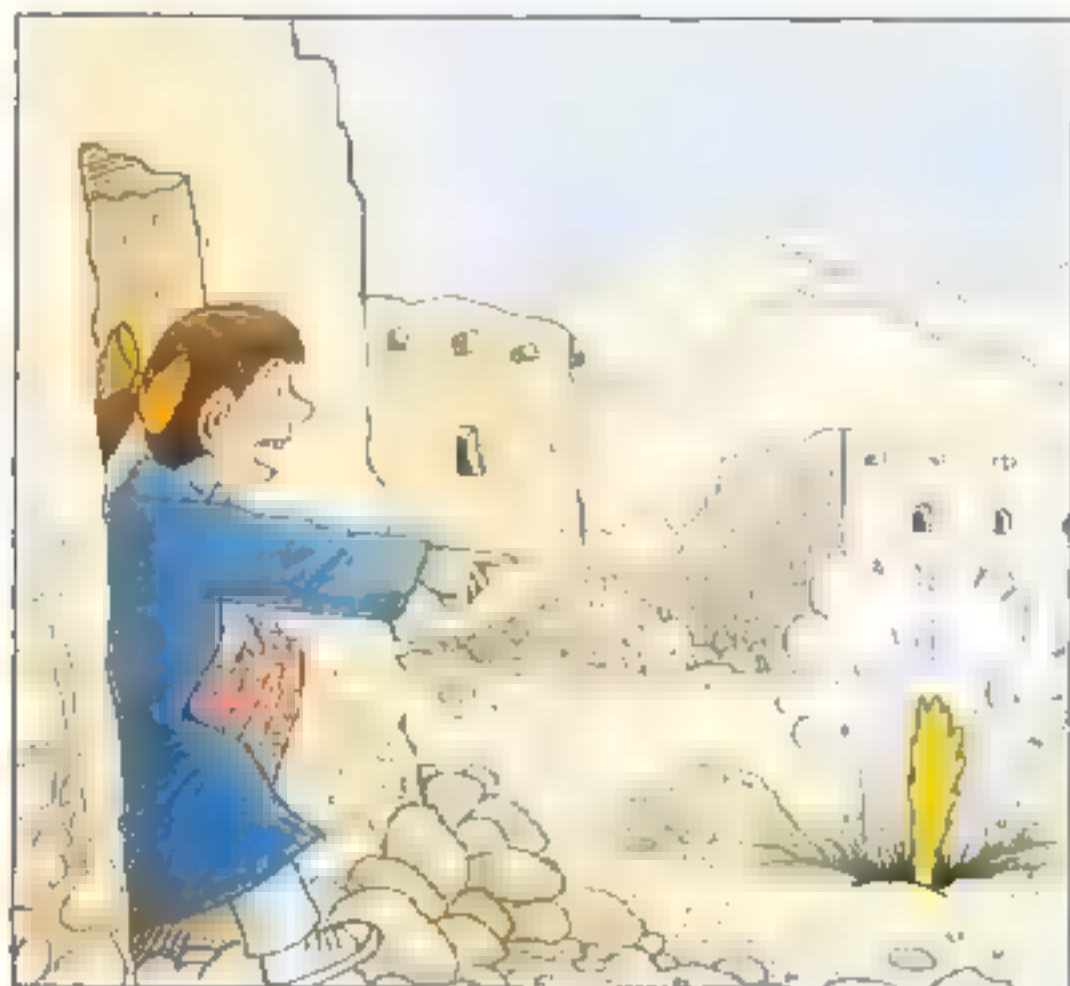
Wilf pointed to an old tower.

"That's the tower on the map," he said. "We must be very near the treasure. Let's look here."



They looked into the shadowy rooms and poked the sand with sticks.

"I'll help, too," thought Floppy, and he dug some deep holes.



Suddenly, Floppy disappeared.

"Help!" shouted Biff. "Floppy has fallen down a hole. We must rescue him."

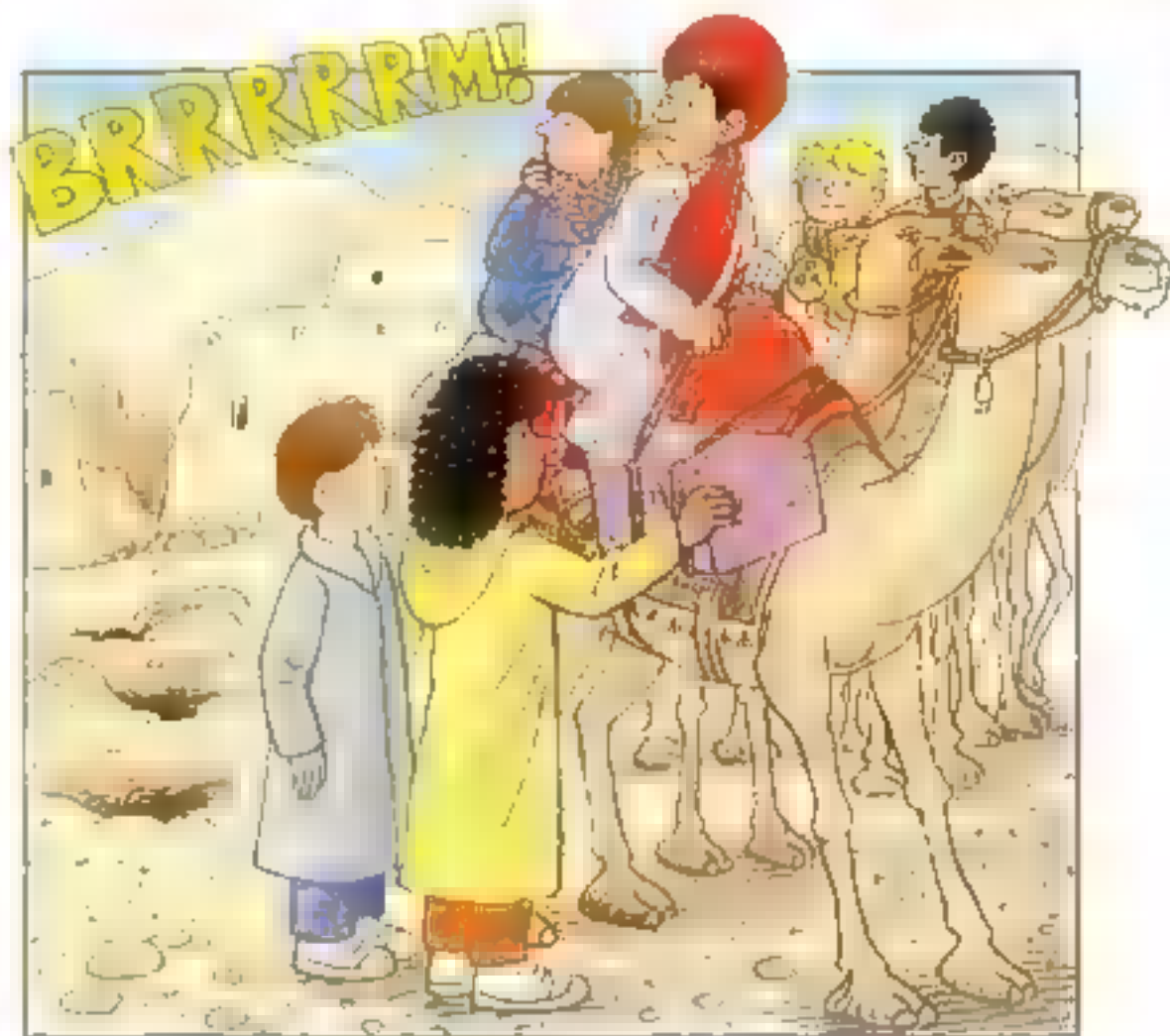
They climbed down through the hole to the room. Wilma was very much excited and was also pleased to see him. It was a treasure hunt.





The chest was full of glittering gold and sparkling jewels.

“The Secret of the Sands!” said Ali.
“How beautiful!”



The children put the chest onto Ali's camel.

Suddenly, they heard a noise. It grew louder and louder.

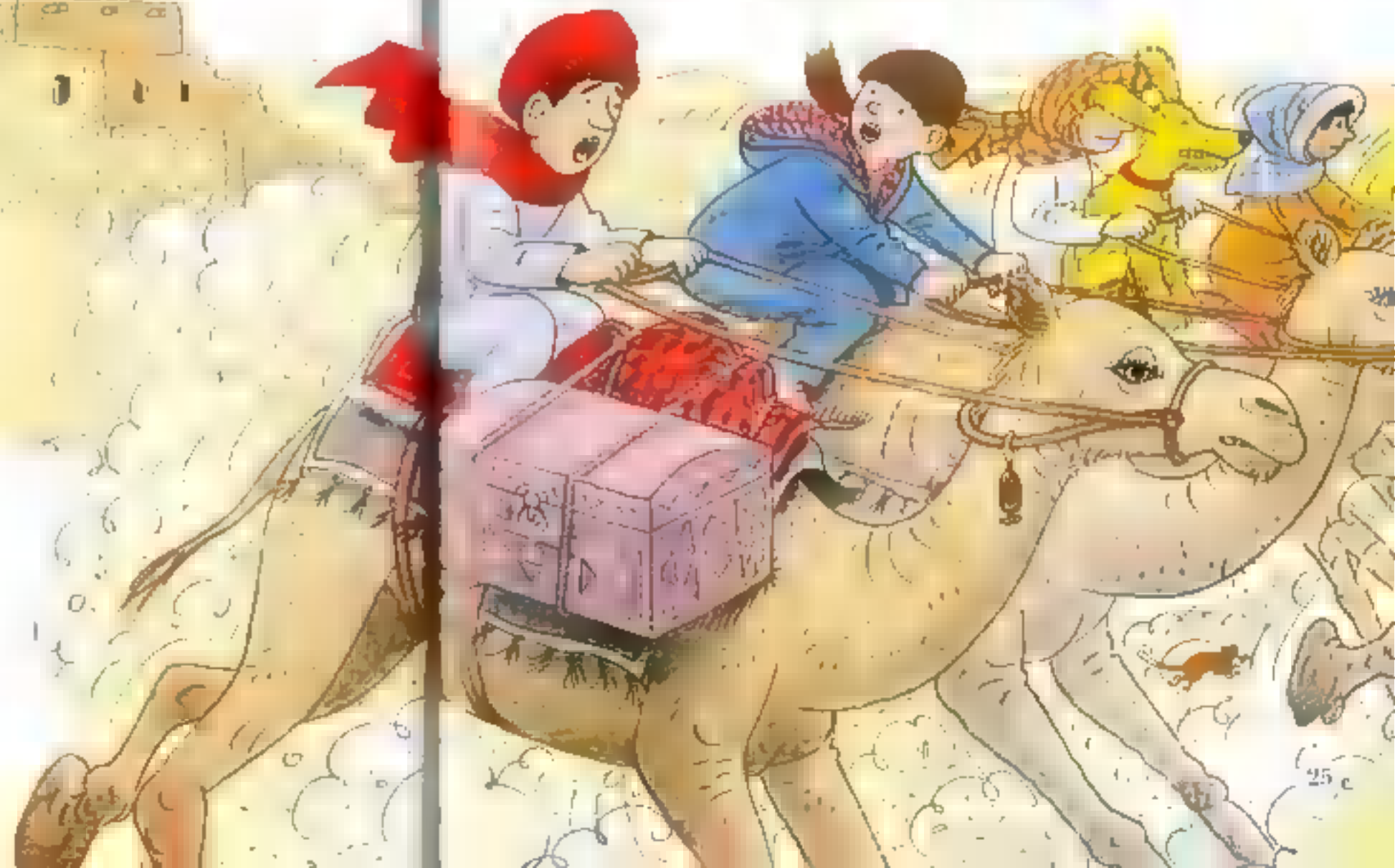
Two men on a motorbike came speeding towards them.

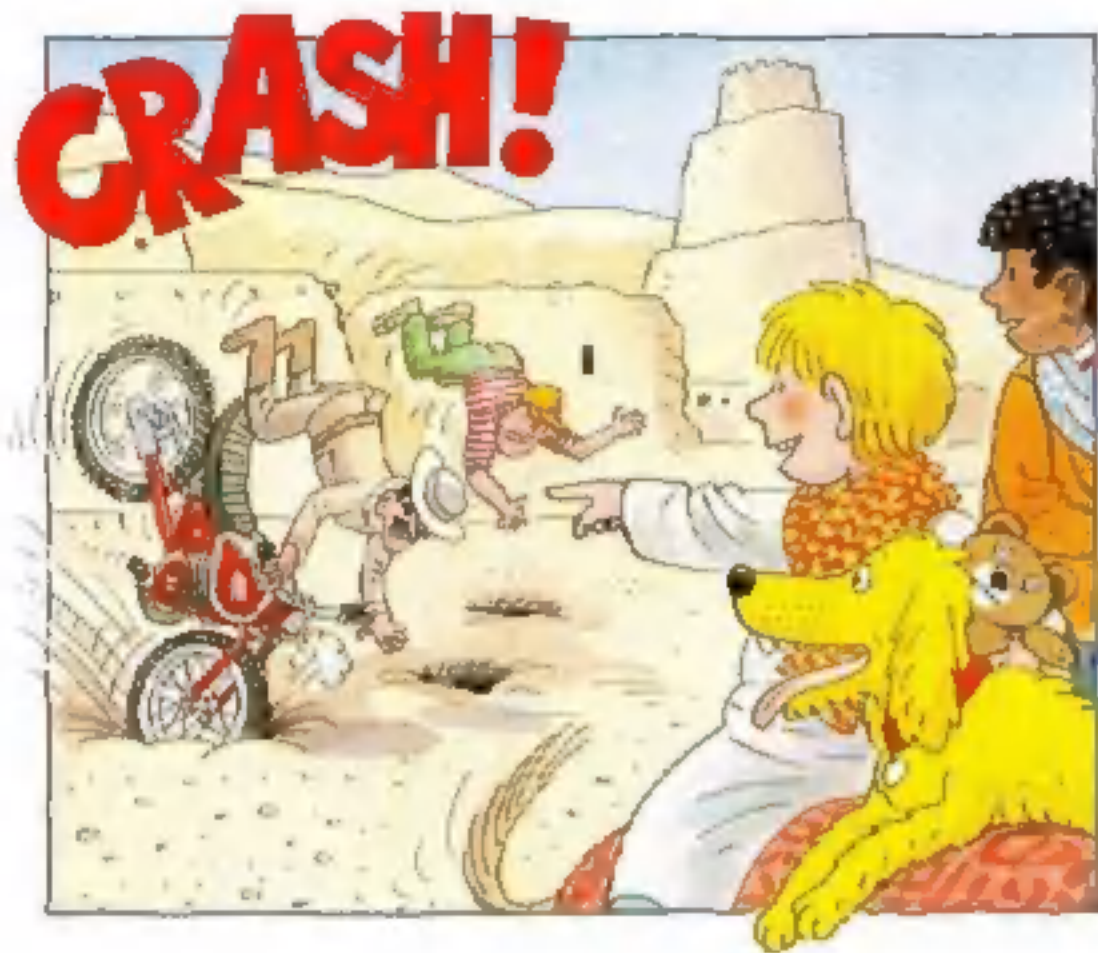


"They're desert robbers," cried Ali. "They're after the treasure!"

The children raced away but the robbers came closer and closer.

"They're going to catch us," cried Biff. "What can we do?"





Suddenly, there was a loud crash!
"Floppy has saved us!" shouted Kipper. "The robbers have fallen into one of his holes. They'll never get us now."



They got back safely, and Ali gave Floppy a golden camel. "Thank you for saving us," he said.

The magic key began to glow.
"It's time for us to go," said Biff.



The magic took the children home.

"What an adventure!" said Chip.

"What glittering gold!" said Wilma.

"What big bumpy camels!" thought Floppy.

Think about the story



Why do you think the book is called The Secret of the Sands?

Why didn't Floppy like the adventure?



How did Floppy save the children?



What sort of treasure would you like to find?



A maze

Help Ali find the treasure.



Useful common words repeated in this story and other books in the series. began children cried down gave louder now shouted some suddenly they're thought were what with

Names in this story: Ali Bill Chip Kipper Wilf Wilma Floppy

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What is the secret of the sands?

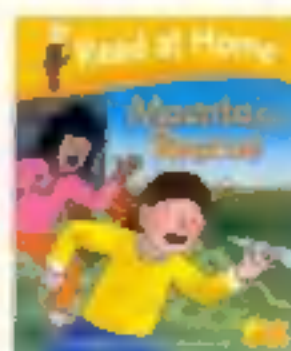


Read at Home is designed for young readers. The vocabulary repetition and gradual progression within each level, from books A to book C, help build confidence – and the entertaining stories and humorous illustrations are just what children need to become successful readers!

Level 5: Reading with Confidence

For children who:

- can recognise 75+ words by sight
- can read ahead to check meaning
- can read silently to themselves



Oxford Reading Tree is used in 80% of primary schools

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